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Compilation

of

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Week Ending Friday, April 13, 1979

Earthquake in Yugoslavia

Message to President Josip Broz Tito. April 15, 1979

Dear Mr. President:

I was distressed to learn of the violent earthquake which struck the southern coast of Yugoslavia earlier today. Please accept my deepest sympathy and that of my family in the face of this tragic event. I have asked Ambassador Eagleburger to convey to Mr. Veljko Milativic, President of the Presidency of the Socialist Republic of Montenegro, and through him to the families of the victims, my personal condolences and those of the American people.

The United States stands ready to assist in efforts to relieve the suffering. I have instructed Ambassador Eagleburger to remain in close touch with the appropriate authorities to determine how we may best be of assistance.

Again, Mr. President, please accept my deepest sympathy and condolences.

JIMMY CARTER

NOTE: The text of the message was released on April 16.

National Forest System Lands

Statement Announcing Decisions on Wilderness Designations. April 16, 1979

We have reached a decision on the future of 62 million acres of roadless and undeveloped National Forest System lands.

Through the Department of Agriculture's Roadless Area Review and Evaluation—known as RARE II—we sought public assistance in establishing the best future uses of these lands. We struck a reasonable balance between accommodating the Nation's needs for wilderness and for the other goods and services produced from these lands.

I am recommending to Congress wilderness designations for about 15.4 million acres of RARE II lands. I already have sent to Congress wilderness recommendations for lands in the two National Forests in Alaska, including about 5.5 million acres identified in RARE II. I will now recommend wilderness designation for about 9.9 million additional acres on 118 National Forest System units in 35 other States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

These recommendations from RARE II will more than double the present size of the National Forest System segment of the National Wilderness Preservation System and will more than quadruple the number of National Forest wildernesses in the highly populated States east of the Mississippi.

The balance of the 62 million acres falls into two categories. The first is "further planning." We need more information to determine the best uses for about 10.6 million acres in this category. Decisions on these areas will be made as soon

as possible. In the second category are about 36 million acres which will be managed for multiple uses other than wilderness. I am asking Secretary Bergland to proceed immediately with the planning and management of these areas under existing law.

For many years, the process of determining the best uses of National Forest has been a slow, piecemeal effort. This process has been the source of frustration and controversy for all interest groups—recreational, environmental, and industrial. RARE II provided a comprehensive, nationwide review and evaluation of these important public lands. It is my hope that the decision being announced today will help resolve the longstanding controversy over their case.

This decision will assure the American people that high-quality areas will be protected for wilderness consideration by the Congress and for enjoyment by future generations. It also will assure a continuing, sustained yield of goods and services from those lands not recommended as wilderness. This will help our national economy, as well as the growth and stability of many local communities, by providing additional oil and gas, minerals, and timber products, which are essential to restraining inflation and increasing productivity.

This decision also meets two major administration goals. First, the recommendations fulfill the pledge in my May 23, 1977, environmental message to enlarge the Nation's treasury of wilderness resources. And second, by releasing some of the land for uses other than wilderness, we respond to our urgent need for energy, wood products, livestock forage, minerals, and a broad array of recreational opportunities. In sum, our recommendations are vital to the effort to reduce inflation, control unemployment, and encourage energy development.

All the nonwilderness lands in the National Forest System will be managed to reflect environmental concerns while sustaining their multiple resource values.

I have asked Secretary Bergland to provide Congress with maps and resource data to accompany my recommendations for wilderness designations. Since some of the areas involved are contiguous to areas previously recommended for wilderness as a result of the earlier review of National Forest Primitive Areas, the Secretary will also include updated information on these areas.

Included in my fact sheet is a State-by-State listing of the acreage in wilderness, in the further planning and nonwilderness categories, and a listing of changes made in the Secretary's January 4 proposal. The changes are based on comments received from Governors, Members of Congress, and Federal agencies during the interagency review process.

NOTE: The fact sheet is included in the White House press release.

Disaster Emergency in Mississippi

Telegram to Governor Cliff Finch and Mayor Dale Banks of Jackson. April 17, 1979

I am sending Bill Simpson of my staff to Mississippi as my personal representative to assure that all appropriate and necessary federal assistance is being made available. He is due to arrive in Jackson at approximately 9:15 a.m. Tuesday, April 17.

As you know, Bill is a native of Mississippi and served until recently as administrative assistant to former Senator Eastland. He has the authority to insure that the federal government's response to this

disaster situation is timely and of maximum assistance to the people of the affected areas, and he will report to me on his return to Washington.

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your fellow citizens.

JIMMY CARTER

Commandant of the Marine Corps

Nomination of Gen. Robert H. Barrow. April 18, 1979

The President today announced he will nominate Gen. Robert H. Barrow, USMC, to be Commandant of the Marine Corps. He would replace Gen. Louis H. Wilson, who is retiring on June 30, 1979.

General Barrow is currently Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, a post he has held since July 1, 1978.

He was born February 5, 1922, in Baton Rouge, La. He attended Louisiana State University and the University of Maryland, where he received a B.S. degree in 1956. He has done graduate work at Tulane University.

He was commissioned in May 1943, and served during the latter part of World War II with a Chinese guerrilla force which operated in enemy-occupied territory in central China. During the Korean conflict, he participated in the Inchon-Seoul operation and the Chosin Reservoir campaign as a rifle company commander.

From 1964 to 1967, Barrow served as the plans officer, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, and as an infantry regiment commander whose regiment participated in numerous combat actions in the vicinity of the DMZ, Khe Sanh, and A Shau Valley.

He was Commanding General for 3 years at the Marine Corps Base, Okinawa, and then served as Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., for 32 months.

In 1975 he was appointed Lieutenant General and assigned as Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower at Marine Corps Headquarters. From October 1976 until assuming his present duties, he served as Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, in Norfolk, Va.

Barrow's personal U.S. decorations include the Navy Cross, the Army Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, three Legions of Merit, two Bronze Stars, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Older Americans Month, 1979

Proclamation 4658. April 18, 1979

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The older American embodies not only a lifetime of experience and accomplishment, but also invaluable and often unrecognized resources of talent, energy and wisdom. Our country's awareness of the contributions and potential of our older people has steadily grown in recent years, as an increasing number of Americans have shown that their later years can indeed be rewarding ones for themselves and their communities.

Yet for too many of our people, the later years are often wasted and miserable because of health problems. This year's theme for the May observance of Older Americans Month is "Better Health Through Better Care."

Health is defined by the World Health Organization as a "state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease and infirmity." Good adequate health requires more than just the treatment of sickness and injury, though providing treatment is vital. Good health care must also include proper nutrition, preventive and health maintenance services, as well as provision for long-term care.

In older persons the interrelationship between physical and mental health is especially important. Mental health services for the elderly have been sadly lacking in this country. Active and satisfying lives are both dependent upon and necessary to maintaining the health of older Americans.

The accessibility of all types of health services is critically important to the elderly, and holding down the costs of both crisis-oriented and preventive services is essential if the real needs are to be met.

As we make greater use of the abilities of older Americans, and find ways to better meet their special needs, particularly in relation to health services, all of our people will benefit.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the month of May 1979 as Older Americans Month. I ask public officials at all levels, doctors, nurses, and other health professionals, and people of all ages, to promote better health care and social services for older people, and to undertake appropriate projects both on a public and on a personal level to ensure the best possible health for older people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and third.

JIMMY CARTER

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 3:40 p.m., April 18, 1979]

Disaster Emergency in Mississippi

Telegram to Governor Cliff Finch. April 19, 1979

Bill Simpson of my staff is finalizing a report on the flood conditions in Mississippi following his visit to Jackson.

The people of Mississippi have met this disaster—and the tragedy it has wrought—with strength, resolve and faith. My prayers are with them, and I am confident that their spirit will prevail over this unprecedented flood as it has over previous natural disasters.

While I am concerned about the scope of the flooding and the suffering inflicted on our citizens, I am heartened to know that an effective working partnership has already been achieved among all levels of government and the private sector to relieve the situation.

This partnership, which reaches from the White House through the Governor's office into every county and community involved in this catastrophe, insures we will succeed in our efforts to rebuild homes, businesses and livelihoods in every afflicted area of the state.

JIMMY CARTER

NOTE: The text of the telegram was released on April 20.

Death of Rogers C. B. Morton

Statement by the President. April 20, 1979

Americans who care about conservation and the environment have lost a

champion with the death of Rogers C. B. Morton. He fought gallantly for the outdoors he cherished. In Congress, in the Cabinet, and in politics he was both an ardent partisan and a perfect gentleman. His spirit, courage, and humor enhanced our public life and will be greatly missed.

NOTE: Mr. Morton served as Secretary of the Interior during the Nixon administration and as Secretary of Commerce during the Ford administration. He had also been chairman of the Republican National Committee and a U. S. Representative from Maryland.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following listing includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the White House Press Office and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 14

The White House announced that the President yesterday declared a major disaster for the State of Oklahoma as a result of severe storms and tornadoes, beginning on April 10, which caused extensive public and private property damage.

The White House announced that the President yesterday amended his April 11 declaration of a major disaster for the State of Arkansas to provide Federal assistance also for damage inflicted by severe storms and tornadoes occurring after April 8, but a part of the same weather system.

The President declared an emergency for the State of Mississippi because of the impact of severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding, beginning on or about April 11. The President's action will permit the donation of Government-owned mobile homes to the State to provide temporary housing for those families who lost their homes.

April 18

The President transmitted to the Congress the report of the National Cancer Advisory Board, 1977, and the report of the Director, 1977, on the National Cancer Program.

April 19

The White House announced that the President yesterday declared a major disaster for the State of Alabama as a result of severe storms, high wind and flooding, beginning on or about April 11, which caused extensive public and private property damage.

The President has accepted the invitation of President Park Chung Hee to visit the Republic of Korea immediately following the conclusion of the economic summit in Tokyo. The details of the visit are being worked out by the two governments.

NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE SENATE

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted April 18, 1979

R. LANIER ANDERSON III, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, vice a new position created by P.L. 95–486, approved October 20, 1978.

ALBERT J. HENDERSON, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, vice a new position created by P.L. 95–486, approved October 20, 1978.

CHECKLIST OF WHITE HOUSE PRESS RELEASES

The following listing contains releases of the White House Press Office which are not included in this issue.

Released April 17, 1979

Announcement: trip by Bill Simpson, Deputy Assistant to the President, to Jackson, Miss., as the personal representative of the President

CHECKLIST—Continued

Released April 18, 1979

Announcement: nomination of R. Lanier Anderson III to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit

Announcement: nomination of Albert J. Henderson to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit

ACTS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

Approved April 19, 1979

H.J. Res. 283 ---------- Public Law 96-9
A joint resolution reaffirming the United States commitment to the North Atlantic Alliance.

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